

***Business Area # 9:
Porter Square/ North
Cambridge***

Boundaries: bordered by the B&M Railroad, Alewife Brook Parkway, and the Somerville Line

Major areas of Business/Retail/ Industrial concentrations include: all retail and commercial establishments between 1840 Massachusetts Avenue and the Arlington line, including Porter Square Mall. All commercial properties along Rindge and Sherman to the border of the RR tracks.



Porter Square

There were two **commercial robberies** in Porter Square over the final six months of the year. Both of these incidents involved note-passers at area banks within a week of each other at Christmas. The three commercial robberies in Business District #9 during the first two quarters of 2003 included a bank heist in January, a gas station stickup in May and a drug store holdup in June. All of the incidents were unrelated and remain under investigation. Eleven of the 19 commercial robberies in this business district since 1997 have been of banks. • There were only four unrelated **commercial burglaries** in the Porter Square business district over the final two quarters of 2003. Five of the nine commercial breaks in the first six months of the year were forced entries into churches and gas stations in the 2300 to 2400 block of Mass Ave. From 1995 to 1999, this business district averaged 45 commercial breaks annually. Commercial breaks have dropped over 70% in the Porter Square business district since the year 2000. • The trend, of a high percentage of **larcenies from buildings** being thefts from churches, day care centers, schools and assisted living homes with employee's property being stolen, continued in 2003. • **Larceny from persons** decreased by nine incidents in 2003. The oft-repeated pattern of thefts of elderly shopper's purses being stolen in grocery stores failed to materialize this year.

CRIME	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Larceny from Building	26	30	23	37	31
Larceny from Person	11	24	28	24	15
Commercial Burglary	23	15	15	15	13
Commercial Robbery	3	2	3	4	5
Shoplifting	35	24	27	31	19
Fraud/Flim	19	21	26	34	36
Flam/Counterfeiting					